REMARKS

The present amendment after final amends claims 1 and 3 to correct minor informalities and also to make a correction with respect to a previously entered amendment. More specifically, claims 1 and 3 have been amended to make a minor correction to the preamble of each of the claims with respect to setting forth the central processing unit which was inadvertently deleted in the previous amendment. The central processing unit and its features are set forth in the body of the claims. The present amendment simply amends claims 1 and 3 to set forth the central processing unit in the preamble as originally submitted.

The present amendment also corrects a spelling error with respect to the term photofinishing in claims 1 and 3.
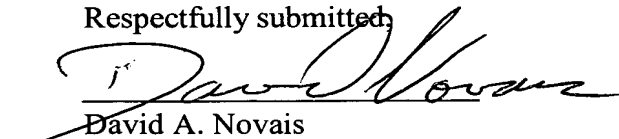
The present amendment also cancels claim 34 which includes repetitive subject matter that appears in claim 33, and cancels non-elected claims 42-46 which were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner.

Accordingly, claims 1-33, 38 and 40 remain pending in the present application.

The present amendment after final does not alter the scope of the claims and therefore entry of this amendment after final is requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is captioned **"Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."**

Respectfully submitted,

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<u>In the Claims:</u>

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended as follows:

1. (Twice amended) A method of producing digital image products in a [photofininshing] <u>photofinishing</u> lab, the photofinishing lab having a plurality of image obtaining devices for obtaining a plurality of digital images from multiple customer orders, a plurality of digital output devices for providing a plurality of digital image products based on the obtained digital images<u>, and a central processing unit,</u> the method comprising the steps of:

associating each obtained digital image with identification data;

sending each of said obtained digital images and their associated identification data to [a] <u>the</u> central processing unit, the central processing unit analyzing each of the obtained digital images and comparing said analyzed obtained digital images with reference digital image data representative of an optimum image, said central processing unit further creating batches of digital images from the multiple customer orders, the images in each batch having similar identification data, such that a batch of images may include images from different customer orders, said central processing unit further determining an output sequence of each of said obtained digital images to said output devices based on at least the associated identification data;

providing a digital image product based on the obtained digital image at said digital output device; and

combining the digital image product from the output devices with a related original order from said original orders using the associated identification data.

3. (Amended) A method of producing digital image products in a [photofininshing] <u>photofinishing</u> lab, the photofinishing lab having a plurality of image obtaining devices for obtaining a plurality of digital images from multiple customer orders, a plurality of digital output devices for providing a plurality of digital image products based on the obtained digital images<u>, and a central processing unit,</u> the method comprising the steps of:

associating each obtained digital image with identification data;

sending each of said obtained digital images and their associated identification data to [a] the central processing unit, the central processing unit analyzing each of the obtained digital images and comparing said analyzed obtained digital images with reference digital image data representative of an optimum image, said central processing unit further creating batches of digital images from the multiple customer orders, the images in each batch having similar identification data, such that a batch of images may include images from different customer orders, said central processing unit further determining an output sequence of each of said obtained digital images to said output devices based on at least the associated identification data;

providing a digital image product based on the obtained digital image at said digital output device; and

combining the digital image product from the output devices with a related original order from said original orders using the associated identification data;

wherein said identification data is product/service data indicative of a type of digital image product for the digital output image, such that the central processing unit modifies the obtained digital images in accordance with the product/service data and the output device to which the obtained digital image is to be sent.